

## Message Text

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61

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 USIA-06 L-02 /025 W

----- 074606

R 181221Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2593

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CE

SUBJ: U.S. FILM EXPORTS TO SRI LANKA

REF:COLOMBO 2599 (OCTOBER 17, 1973)

1. AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF INTERMITTENT NEGOTIATIONS (REPORTED REFTEL) THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A FINAL BREAK BETWEEN THE GSL STATE FILM CORPORATION (SFC) AND KINEMATOGRAPH RENTERS SOCIETY (KRS) OF BOMBAY, REPRESENTING THE MAJOR U.S. MOVIA STUDIES. SFC INSISTS ON EXCLUSIVE IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS FOR FOREIGN FILMS WHILE KRS, FOLLOWING STANDARD POLICY OF MOTION PICTURE EXPORT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, REFUSES TO DEAL WITH STATE CORPORATION.
2. KRS HAS SENT NO U.S. FILMS TO SRI LANKA SINCE DECEMBER 1974. THEIR REPRESENTATIVES LEFT HERE LAST MONTH IN "BITTER" MOOD, ACCORDING TO PRIVATE FILM IMPORTER. SFC INSISTS THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO BYPASS KRS AND IMPORT "SOME" FILMS THROUGH INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS BUT ESTIMATES THIS MAY MEAN 50 PERCENT DROP IN QUANTITY OF U.S. FILMS IMPORTED.
3. COMMENT: SFC APPEARS FAIRLY CONFIDENT OF ITS POSITION, IN LIGHT OF STOCKPILE OF INDEPENDENT FILMS IT HAS BUILT UP, BUT WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE RELATIONSHIP WITH KRS AND

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MAJOR STUDIOS. THEY REALIZE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES IN SIMILAR

SITUATION HAVE SUCCUMBED TO PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR FILMS OF  
MAJOR U.S. STUDIOS AND HAVE RESUMED PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTATION  
ARRANGEMENTS. THAT IS UNLIKELY TO OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE  
HERE.

4. ALTHOUGH APPARENT KRS/SFC BREAK WILL REDUCE CONSUMPTION  
OF AND THUS EARNINGS FROM AMERICAN FILMS IN SRI LANKA, SFC  
IS WILLING TO DEAL WITH KRS AND, IN FACE OF KRS UNILATERAL  
REFUSAL, SAYS IT IS SECURING U.S. FILMS FROM OTHER SOURCES.  
THUS WE SEE LITTLE BASIS FOR COMPLAINT BASED ON DISCRIMINA-  
TION. EMBASSY INQUIRIES TO SFC THROUGH LIFE OF THIS  
MATTER HAVE INDICATED U.S.COMMERCIAL INTEREST.  
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPORTS, FILMS, MOTION PICTURES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975COLOMB01236  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 COLOMBO 2599, 75 (OCTOBER 17, 75 197  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 AUG 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S. FILM EXPORTS TO SRI LANKA  
**TAGS:** ETRD, BDIS, CE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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